

The
GOOD
LIFE

a Study in Ecclesiastes

Control is an Illusion.



For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal;

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8



a time to break down, and a time to
build up; a time to weep, and a time to
laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to
dance; a time to cast away stones, and
a time to gather stones together;

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8



a time to embrace, and a time to refrain
from embracing; a time to seek, and a
time to lose; a time to keep, and a time
to cast away; a time to tear, and a time
to sew;

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8



a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8



CHALLENGE #1:

We have no control over
the seasons of our lives.



What gain has the worker from his toil?

Ecclesiastes 3:9



I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with.

Ecclesiastes 3:10



In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider: God has made the one as well as the other.

Ecclesiastes 7:14



He has made everything beautiful in its
time.

Ecclesiastes 3:11



CHALLENGE #1:

We have no control over
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CHALLENGE #1:

We have no control over
the seasons of our lives.

COMFORT #1:

God is with us and making everything
beautiful in its time.



“Beautiful”:

- Yaphah
- Fitting and Appropriate.



“God rules all our moments and all our days, and there is a definite orderliness to what He does...there is a ‘fittingness’ to what happens. God does everything at just the right time.”

- Philip Ryken



Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

Ecclesiastes 3:11



CHALLENGE #2:

We want to know what God is doing,
but can't.



I perceived that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it. God has done it, so that people fear before him.

Ecclesiastes 3:14



CHALLENGE #2:

We want to know what God is doing,
but can't.



CHALLENGE #2:

We want to know what God is doing,
but can't.

COMFORT #2:

It is God's grace that we do not know,
because it causes us to fear Him more.



That which is, already has been; that
which is to be, already has been; and
God seeks what has been driven away.

Ecclesiastes 3:15-16



Moreover, I saw under the sun that in the place of justice, even there was wickedness, and in the place of righteousness, even there was wickedness.

Ecclesiastes 3:15-16



CHALLENGE #3:

“Beautiful” might not come
this side of eternity.



I said in my heart, God will judge the righteous and the wicked, for there is a time for every matter and for every work.

Ecclesiastes 3:17



CHALLENGE #3:

“Beautiful” might not come
this side of eternity.



CHALLENGE #3:

“Beautiful” might not come
this side of eternity.

COMFORT #3:

God deals in eternity.



“In my finite story I am often left grasping after several different threads and cannot seem to weave them into one coherent whole. My story has broken characters, jarring interruptions, unexpected joys, relationships caught up in unresolved tensions and difficulties.



My life story has unexplained contradictions, I have plenty of unanswered questions, and, in God's kindness and mercy, I have yet unfinished chapters.



But my story is not the story. The story reveals that there will be a time of judgment, and believers trust that judgment will finally prevail.”

- David Gibson



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Three Invitations of Ecclesiastes:

Three Invitations of Ecclesiastes:

1. Sacred Honesty



Three Invitations of Ecclesiastes:

1. Sacred Honesty
2. Sacred Mundanity

I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man.

Ecclesiastes 3:12-13



Three Invitations of Ecclesiastes:

1. Sacred Honesty
2. Sacred Mundanity

Three Invitations of Ecclesiastes:

1. Sacred Honesty
2. Sacred Mundanity
3. Sacred Joy

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